

**4VAC15-90-10**  
**Game: Deer: Open season; generally.**

**Summary:**

The proposal is to create (i) both an early September antlerless only firearms deer season and a late (January through March) antlerless only firearms deer season countywide in Clarke County and on non-national forest lands in Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties, (ii) an early September antlerless only firearms deer season on private lands in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties, and (iii) an early September antlerless only firearms deer season and a late (January through March) antlerless only firearms deer season in designated disease focus areas in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, Page, and Rappahannock counties.

**Proposed language of amendment:**

**4VAC15-90-10. Open season; generally.**

- A. It shall be lawful to hunt deer in the following localities, including the cities and towns therein, during the following seasons, all dates inclusive.

Locality	Season
Accomack County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Albemarle County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Alleghany County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Amelia County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Amherst County (west of Business U.S. 29 from the James River to its intersection with U.S. 29 just south of the Town of Amherst continuing north on U.S. 29 to the Tye River, except on national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Amherst County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Amherst County (east of Business U.S. 29, as defined above)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Appomattox County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Arlington County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Arlington County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Augusta County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Bath County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Bedford County (except on national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Bedford County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Bland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Botetourt County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following

Brunswick County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Buchanan County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Buckingham County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Campbell County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Caroline County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Carroll County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Charles City County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Charlotte County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Chesapeake (City of)	October 1 through November 30
Chesterfield County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Clarke County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
<u>Clarke County (antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Craig County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Culpeper County (except Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Culpeper County (Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Culpeper County (private lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October</u>
<u>Culpeper County (disease focus areas defined by the Department, antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Cumberland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

Dickenson County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Dinwiddie County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Essex County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Fairfax County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Fairfax County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Fauquier County (except Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Fauquier County (Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Fauquier County (private lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October</u>
<u>Fauquier County (disease focus areas defined by the Department, antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Floyd County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Fluvanna County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Franklin County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Frederick County (non-national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Frederick County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Frederick County (non-national-forest lands antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Giles County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Gloucester County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Goochland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

Grayson County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Greene County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Greensville County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Halifax County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Hanover County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Henrico County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Henry County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Highland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Isle of Wight County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
James City County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
King and Queen County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
King George County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
King William County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Lancaster County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Lee County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Loudoun County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Loudoun County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Louisa County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

Lunenburg County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Madison County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
<u>Madison County (private lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October</u>
<u>Madison County (disease focus areas defined by the Department, antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Mathews County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Mecklenburg County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Middlesex County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Montgomery County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Nelson County (west of Route 151, except on national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Nelson County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Nelson County (east of Route 151)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
New Kent County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Northampton County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Northumberland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Nottoway County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Orange County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
<u>Orange County (private lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October</u>
<u>Orange County (disease focus areas defined by the Department, antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>

Page County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Page County (disease focus areas defined by the Department, antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Patrick County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Pittsylvania County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Powhatan County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Prince Edward County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Prince George County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Prince William County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Prince William County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Pulaski County (except on New River Unit of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant adjacent to the Town of Dublin)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Pulaski County (New River Unit of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant adjacent to the Town of Dublin)	Saturday prior to the second Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Rappahannock County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
<u>Rappahannock County (private lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October</u>
<u>Rappahannock County (disease focus areas defined by the Department, antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Richmond County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Roanoke County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following

Rockbridge County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Rockingham County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Russell County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Scott County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Shenandoah County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Shenandoah County (non-national forest lands antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Smyth County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Southampton County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Spotsylvania County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Stafford County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Suffolk (City of) (east of Dismal Swamp Line)	October 1 through November 30
Suffolk (City of) (west of Dismal Swamp Line)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Surry County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Sussex County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Tazewell County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Virginia Beach (City of)	October 1 through November 30
Warren County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Warren (non-national forest lands antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>



Washington County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Westmoreland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Wise County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Wythe County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
York County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

B. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, east of the Blue Ridge Mountains deer may be hunted from the Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive, within the incorporated limits of any city or town that allows deer hunting.

C. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, west of the Blue Ridge Mountains deer may be hunted from the Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following within the incorporated limits of any city or town that allows deer hunting.

#### **Rationale:**

Antlerless only deer seasons in CWD management areas. Expanded antlerless harvest in specific disease management area (DMA) counties and disease focus areas (DFA) within specified DMA counties is a management strategy aimed at reducing the spread and transmission of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Virginia. The Department detected the first case of CWD in 2009 in Frederick County and has closely monitored both prevalence trends and the spread of the disease. Since hunting is recognized as a critical tool for CWD management, and CWD monitoring data suggests a recent amplified spread of the disease to new areas of northwest Virginia, expanded antlerless harvest throughout the DMAs is prudent.

CWD monitoring data suggests that the disease is firmly established in Frederick and Shenandoah counties. In recent years, CWD has also been detected in Clarke and Warren counties, and both counties are at an elevated risk for additional disease spread and establishment. Therefore, additional antlerless deer hunting opportunities are appropriate in all four counties. In five additional counties, a less aggressive expansion of antlerless harvest is being proposed. While CWD surveillance efforts have confirmed the disease within the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, and Rappahannock, and in multiple counties adjacent to Orange County, surveillance data suggests that the disease was more recently introduced and is not yet firmly established in these areas.

The private land deer populations in Madison and Rappahannock counties is currently at the deer population management objective outlined in the Department's deer management plan. Per the deer plan, staff will engage the stakeholder advisory committee who developed the plan to reduce the deer population objectives in these two counties and possibly other disease management area counties in the near future.

Proposals relative to DFA's will enable the Department to target additional harvest management approaches around new CWD detections as they are discovered. DFAs are defined as a local expansion of antlerless hunting opportunities in a focused area around an outlier CWD detection, which is located more than 5 miles from the nearest detection. The goals of expanded antlerless hunting opportunities in a

DFA are to slow disease transmission in the immediate vicinity of a detection and to increase testing opportunities for deer harvested in close vicinity to an outlier CWD detection.